

Rainier Beach Consultant Scope of Work -- Two Options:

1. **Shared Multi-cultural Community Center:** To start capacity building with communities interested in shared operation and ownership of a shared multi-cultural community center.

Through the last 4 years, many of Rainier Valley's immigrant and refugee communities have sought City support for a shared multi-cultural community center. They are driven to have a permanent home in the City. For many, their community centers are subject to either escalating rents or re-development. Others do not have the capacity to own one. Community leaders have been discussing this across cultural lines and seek to make this real. Our proposal supports this effort to achieve two outcomes: **1) Strong and stable community infrastructure and leadership** and **2) project pre-development studies**. With these components, the communities will be able to realistically start a capital campaign for their project.

Cultural community centers are a place for communities to provide services to their own members so that they can successfully transition/sustain themselves in our culture and economy. They also provide a place for groups to maintain their own identities and to celebrate them – and are usually an effective means of communication. They serve as anchors to hold communities in place. A shared multi-cultural center has the added benefit of providing a venue for identifying shared concerns and developing shared agendas across historic divides.

This can also serve as a place for both formal and informal get-togethers across all cultures.

Scope of Work: 4 months

Work with historically under-represented communities in Southeast Seattle interested in operating, maintaining and owning a shared multi-cultural community center – to understand the organizational and economic thresholds necessary to complete and sustain this project. DON and DPD will assist in identifying and contacting groups who have expressed an interest

Product:

A detailed scope of work describing the steps to develop organizational capacity and project economic feasibility. This would create detailed strategies to include in the Neighborhood Plan Update, and to support grant applications necessary to complete the next phase of the project. The scope would address the following elements:

- a. Build and strengthen coalition of groups likely to take part
- b. Identify likely organizational models for the coalition – that support longevity and allow for successful grant awards
- c. Project budget – including a range of budgets and assessment of likely economic impact on coalition and its members
- d. Identify scope, cost and schedule to complete organizational development (approx 18 months)
- e. Identify scope, cost and schedule to complete project programming and assess project feasibility (approx 18 months)
- f. Identify likely sources of funding
- g. Identify likely community partners
- h. Identify interim strategies that may strengthen future grant requests (i.e. enter into a shared operating model – perhaps for an existing facility)

2. **Community Development:** Build and strengthen community capacity across cultures, economic lines, ideally linked to economic development and youth development strategies – so that the community can stand strong in the face of gentrification pressures.

Through the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Update process, it has become clear that this is a neighborhood with many assets. There are the physical assets such as parks, decent transit, an identifiable town center, community center, library, etc. There are also the social/community assets: this is also an area with great cultural and economic diversity, there are gathering places, business districts, and community based organizations to support this broad diversity, there are four schools in the center, there is the Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition that can serve as a venue to bring shared interests forward; this community deeply values its young people. It was also noted that the community would be strengthened by linkages across cultures, economics, and subject areas. (i.e. strategies that simultaneously serve and bring together businesses, decent jobs, young people, people from diverse backgrounds, and the physical environment)

Catalytic work to strengthen the community, to support its community and social assets can serve to anchor the community as real estate pressures increase on this neighborhood. These anti-gentrification tools will be critical if the community want to maintain its diversity.

Scope of Work: 4 months

Work with community groups, local business owners / business districts (including culturally specific districts), youth programs, etc, to identify a clear, compelling community vision that cements them and mobilizes them to undertake neighborhood improvement strategies; and also to clearly identify community strengths and areas in need of additional support.

Product:

Develop a community mobilized and ready to solicit and implement large scale grants to support the vision of a strong and resilient community with broad cultural and economic diversity. Build and strengthen coalition of groups likely to take part.

- a. Build and strengthen community capacity across cultures, economic lines
- b. Develop a clear shared vision for the future – that everyone is ready to move forward and is compelling to major grantors.
- c. Develop a strategic plan of specific actions to further link communities; strengthen local businesses, provide opportunities for youth; maintain economic and cultural diversity
- d. Identify likely organizational models that grow linkages and improve coordinated actions amongst the community – that support community strength and resilience (i.e. a congress of places of worship and gathering with regular celebrations/meetings; the Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition; a way to involve business owners; a way to involve youth; to bring in decent jobs; etc)
- e. Identify conceptual project budgets to implement near, medium and long term strategies – including community capacity building
- f. Identify likely grant sources for a major long-term investment to support a model effort to mitigate gentrification while also improving the physical environment.
- g. Identify likely community partners